

REMARKS

Claims 50-99 are pending in this application, with claims 50, 82-84, 98 and 99 being independent. Claims 50, 82 and 83 have been amended to correct an antecedent basis problem.

Independent claims 50, 82-84, 98 and 99, along with their dependent claims 51-81 and 85-97, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Cannon (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,587) in view of Bajzath (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,644). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 50 recites:

A method for screening a telephony call made by a calling party to a called party, the method comprising:

receiving, over a telephone network, a telephony call from the calling party at a messaging service platform;

receiving an audio message generated by the calling party as a first stream of audio data;

establishing a connection with an online audio server;

sending the first stream of audio data to the online audio server over the established connection;

leveraging an internal resource identifier to enable identification of the first stream of audio data at the online audio server;

relating the internal resource identifier to an external resource identifier;

sending the external resource identifier to a client system;

enabling the client system to establish a connection with the online audio server;

receiving an indication of the external resource identifier from the client;

using the received indication of the external resource identifier and its relationship to the internal resource identifier to enable identification of the first stream of audio data; and

sending the first stream of audio data to the client system over the connection established between the client system and the online audio server.

Claims 82 and 83 are similar to claim 50 but are directed to a computer system and an apparatus, rather than to a method. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 50, 82 and 83, and their dependent claims 51-81, because the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case that Cannon, Bajzath, or any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited processes of leveraging an internal resource identifier to enable identification

of a first stream of audio data containing a caller's audio message, relating the internal resource identifier to an external resource identifier, sending the external resource identifier to a client system, receiving an indication of the external resource identifier from the client system, and using the received indication of the external resource identifier and its relationship to the internal resource identifier to enable identification of the first stream of audio data. The Examiner's rejections are completely silent as to how the cited art describes or suggests any of these limitations.

Claim 84 recites:

A method for screening a telephony call made by a calling party to a called party, the method comprising:

- receiving, from a messaging service platform, an external resource identifier generated in response to receipt of a call at the messaging service platform;
- establishing a connection with an online audio server;
- communicating the external resource identifier to the online audio server;
- receiving a first stream of audio data over the established online audio server connection in response to communication of the external resource identifier;
- enabling perception of an audio message generated by the calling party by converting the first stream of audio data into audio,
- wherein the called party is made able to begin to perceive the audio message while the audio message is being deposited as a voicemail at the messaging service platform.

Claims 98 and 99 are similar to claim 84 but are directed to a computer system and an apparatus, rather than to a method. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 84, 98 and 99, and their dependent claims 85-97, because the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case that Cannon, Bajzath, or any combination of the two describes or suggests the recited processes of receiving from a messaging service platform an external resource identifier generated in response to a receipt of a call at the messaging service platform, communicating the external resource identifier to an online audio server, and receiving a first stream of audio data in response to communication of the external resource identifier. The Examiner's rejections are completely silent as to how the cited art describes or suggests any of these limitations.

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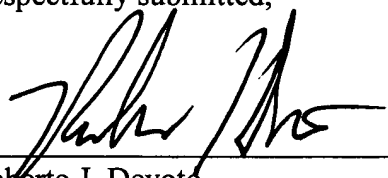
Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-429001 / AF 013 - Call
Screening for Internet Cal

Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable over the cited art.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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